

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 24-28, and 31-36 were pending. In the present response, claims 1-4, 6-8, 24-28, and 36 are cancelled, and claims 37-50 are newly added. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, claims 31-35 and 37-50 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 31-35 contain allowable subject matter. Although the Office Action is somewhat unclear as to the status of the claims, in a telephone conference with Applicants' representative on October 31, 2008, Examiner Nasser confirmed that claims 31-35 are allowable.

New claims 37-50 depend, directly or indirectly, from either claim 31 or 32, both allowable independent claims, and thus are also allowable.

102(b) and 103(a) Rejections of Claims 1-4, 6-8, 24-28, and 36

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 24-28, and 36 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) and/or 103(a) over a variety of references. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 24-28, and 36 have been cancelled herein thus obviating the rejections. However, Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application to further pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 6-8, 24-28, and 31-36 are in condition for allowance, and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 796-2844. Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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